

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All the claims pending herein recite features of that allowed claim 29.

Claims 1-13, 27 and 29-33 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 34-49 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. in the original claims of the application.

Claims 1-7, 10, 12, 13, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,399,273).

Claims 13, 17, 30, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Tang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,939,242).

Claims 13, 17 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Bauer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,077,174).

Claim 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Goto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,235,358).

For the sake of brevity, the several rejections are addressed in combination. The rejections are traversed.

While Applicants disagree with the rejections, it is also believed each of the rejections has been obviated by the amendments made herein. As noted above, each of the pending claims recites features of allowed claim 29, which claim was indicated to be allowable.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

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It is believed that the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Corless', with a stylized, cursive script.

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